

SB 8/HB 354 changes school safety requirements for schools

The passage of Senate Bill 8/HB 354 <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/record/13RS/SB8.htm>, which changes several of Kentucky's current school safety statutes, will take effect on **June 25, 2013**. This bill expands current law by requiring schools and districts to include community first responders in their emergency plans, and presents an opportunity for review and refinement of current emergency and safety practices through continuous improvement. This bill is a logical step taken after recent tragic events occurring in our nation's schools, ranging from intruders to tornadoes, and focuses our attention once again on our goals and efforts to keep our students and school staff safe.

As part of implementation for SB8/HB354, KDE has developed a set of assurances that will be monitored through [ASSIST](#). The ASSIST hyperlink will allow you to preview the assurances for both the district and school that will be uploaded into ASSIST this fall. A Lync session will be occurring on July 9 at 2:00 pm (EST). **Please note if you attended the Safe Schools and Communities Conference on June 11-12 and received a check-list pertaining to implementation of SB8 that it varies slightly from what is being required by KDE. Districts are required at a minimum to follow those identified within ASSIST.*

Schools have the option of beginning the school year with their current Emergency Plan. Once it has been refined to reflect the changes within SB8/HB354, the school will share with their school council for further review prior to adopting. This must occur prior to completing assurances within ASSIST no later than November 1, 2013.

If you have any questions regarding implementation, please contact Toyah Robey or Libby Taylor of the Division of Student Success at 502/564-2116 or via e-mail at toyah.robey@education.ky.gov or libby.taylor@education.ky.gov. If you need technical assistance for deployment, contact our collaborating partner, [Kentucky Center for School Safety](#).